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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 37 | Min 26 | Humidity 38% Partly Cloudy Sensex 74,482 | Nifty 22,604 | Gold 70,670 | Silver 79,730 | Dollar 83.49 | Euro 89.17 | GBP 104.25

2,000 drivers assigned for Lok Sabha election duty left high and dry as officials unable to find funds to pay Rs 7,500 allowance owed to each of them

ALL WORK AND NO PAY

'Officials did not even bother to arrange drinking water for us'

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KAUSHIK JN

> **"Officials from my parent department started asking me to attend duty along with the department vehicle. They questioned me as to why I was waiting at the election office even two days after the polling was held**
> —Driver

Around 2,000 drivers engaged for Lok Sabha election duty are a disappointed lot due to the delay in payment of daily allowance for them.

Election officials have engaged 2,000 drivers working with various government departments for election duty along with the vehicles belonging to the public works department, tourism, animal husbandry and other departments.

The drivers have to be at the service of officials on election duty till the polling is held. The election for three Lok Sabha seats in Bengaluru was held on April 26 as part of the second phase of polling.

The drivers are supposed to get relieved from the election duty and go back to their parent departments as soon as the polling is held but the authorities concerned did not bother either to pay the daily allowance or to relieve them from election duty on Saturday or Monday.

"We have been struggling throughout the month for money. We expected the officials on election duty to make arrangements for paying Rs 7,500 for each of us on the election duty. The officials did not even bother to arrange drinking water for us," said a driver on the condition of anonymity.

The drivers could not muster courage to demand that the officials pay the daily allowance as most of them are working on contract-basis. They waited till Monday evening expecting the officials to relieve them but in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Uneasy riders

At a time when pedestrian deaths are climbing, so is the number of motorists taking over footpaths

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The Bangalore Traffic Police (BTP) have booked 3,628 cases against motorists riding on footpaths so far this year. The traffic police booked 9,547 cases last year while the number of cases booked in 2022 stands at 18,144.

This comes at a time when the traffic department data shows that there is a 77% increase in pedestrian deaths between 2021 and 2023. While 161 pedestrian deaths were reported in 2021, the number recorded in 2023 stood at 286. Pedestrian deaths also accounted for close to 40% of all fatalities from accidents that took place within city limits during 2023.

While most of the deaths were a result of pedestrians trying to cross roads, data from BTP says 66 of the 286 pedestrian deaths in 2023 occurred while the victim was walking on the side of the road.

Sumangala, a pedestrian, urged the municipal body to install bollards on footpaths to prevent riders from trespassing. "It is the only measure that can be implemented to ensure motorists do not encroach on footpaths and use them as an easy pathway to escape traffic congestion. Riding on footpaths poses a heavy risk for pedestrians who are already required to navigate through other footpath encroachments such as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Behind e-waste industry

Join the book launch and learn the economic, cultural, and political factors that shape India's e-waste recycling industry in the book "Untapped Knowledge in India's E-Waste Industry" by TS Krishnan, an independent scholar with expertise working across disciplines such as supply chain management, ethnography, and sustainability. This book offers a counterpoint to mainstream arguments that dismiss the value of the informal economy. Get together to discuss the e-waste-related experience today.
Where: Atta Galatta
When: May 4, 5 pm

02 Local cuisine

Experience the unique cuisine of Karnataka at the MTR's iconic food festival, "Karunadu Swada." Showcasing over 100 authentic dishes from across the state, indulge yourself and explore these mouth-watering home-cooked dishes from six different regions of Karnataka. Get ready to embark on a delectable gastronomical journey.
Where: Jayamahal Palace Convention Centre
When: May 4 and 5, 12 pm onwards

03 Freestyle dance

Unleash your inner dancer, learn the fundamentals of freestyle dance from experienced instructors, and explore various dance styles and techniques, from hip-hop to contemporary, through a "Freestyle Dance Workshop." Get ready to groove and move in an electrifying session filled with dynamic choreography and infectious beats that will ignite your passion for dance. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned dancer, this workshop offers something for everyone.
Where: Small World, Koramangala
When: May 4 to July 13

Staying cool in summer

A person is seen buying handheld fans kept for sale at a road-side near Ulsoor Lake during the scorching heat in Bengaluru on Wednesday

At Rs 50, tender coconut becomes tough nut to crack

From tomatoes, beans to fish, veg & non-veg prices hit the roof

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As temperatures soar this summer, there's a surging demand for tender coconuts as a rehydration solution. However, the prices of these tender coconuts have skyrocketed to Rs 50, marking the first time they've hit such a high price point.

Numerous coconut vendors in Bengaluru have observed a 50 per cent reduction in supply, causing them to procure tender coconuts at Rs 32 to Rs 35. With added profit margins factored in, they are now selling these tender coconuts in Bengaluru for Rs 45 to Rs 50 each.

Shivu, a tender coconut seller in Jayanagar, said that there is immense demand for tender coconuts. Sharing his insights into the current market trends, he said, "I sell 300 to 400 coconuts daily. However, due to increased demand and limited supply, prices have surged. Unfortunately, their quality has also been affected, as many customers have noted a decrease in the quantity of coconut water in the tender coconuts. Previously, we used to source coconuts from both Karnataka and Kerala, but obtaining coconuts from Kerala has become expensive. If we resort to importing from Kerala, the selling price could go up to Rs 65 per coconut, which might deter potential buyers."

Tender coconuts are sold at Rs 49 each at a shop in Bengaluru

"Obtaining coconuts from Kerala has become expensive. If we resort to importing from Kerala, the selling price could go up to Rs 65 per coconut, which might deter potential buyers

–Shivu, a tender coconut seller

Mahesh Prabhu, vice president of Rajya Raitha Sangha, sheds light on the challenges faced by tender coconut farmers. "Our supply of tender coconuts from Chamarajanagar has been impacted by factors like insufficient rainfall and pest infestations, leading to a 30 per cent decrease in produce. Despite the coconuts being sold in Bengaluru at Rs 50, our farmers are only earning Rs 25 per coconut, with a significant portion going to middlemen."

According to traders, tender coconuts sourced from Bengaluru originate primarily from districts such as Chamarajanagar, Mandya, Hassan, and Tumakuru. Unfortunately, the ongoing drought conditions have significantly depleted the water table in these areas, resulting in reduced production. Notably, coconuts from the Maddur Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) are being distributed to states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, and others.

Conversely, the surge in prices is not limited to tender coconuts; vegetables and fruits are also experiencing significant price hikes. For instance, beans that were previously priced between Rs 100 to Rs 120 per kg are now fetching Rs 150 to Rs 200 per kg. Similarly, tomatoes have seen a rise from Rs 10 to Rs 20 per kg to Rs 30 to Rs 40 per kg. Guavas, previously priced at Rs 30 to Rs 40 per kg, are now commanding prices of Rs 60 to Rs 80 per kg. Additionally, tur dal, which was priced at Rs 120 to Rs 140 per kg, is now being sold for Rs 150 to Rs 170 per kg.

Not only vegetables, but the prices of fish and chicken have also seen a noticeable increase. Previously, Bangada fish was sold for Rs 200 to Rs 220 per kg, but now it is being sold for Rs 300 to Rs 320 per kg. Similarly, one kilogramme of chicken, which used to cost Rs 150 to Rs 180, is now being sold for Rs 220 to Rs 250.

Bengaluru has to fill a Rs 1,425-crore gap in its traffic fine bill

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A significant number of traffic violations, combined with a substantial backlog of fines, amounting to a total pendency of Rs 1,700 crore for the entire state as of March 31, with Bengaluru City alone accounting for Rs 1,425 crore, have become a matter of concern for the Traffic Police. There are 3.25 crore cases pending in total. Despite the implementation of discount schemes, the situation hasn't improved significantly, said Alok Kumar, Additional Director General of Police, Traffic & Road Safety.

According to the latest data by the Bengaluru Traffic Police, traffic cops collected Rs 14,80,61,950 from traffic violations in three months in 2024.

According to commuters, one of the major traffic violations in the city is wrong-side riding or driving.

"I had an accident where a food delivery executive rammed into my car door while I had just opened the door after dark. The person was riding on the wrong side. Incidents like footpath riding, signal jumping cases are also exceeding. People are least bothered about Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras, and I have seen how people are jumping signals. This is a huge risk for pedestrians and other motorists," said Dave, a citizen. He added that traffic fines should be capped till the third violation, and beyond that, driving licenses should be suspended for 1-2 months if the fine is not cleared for all prior three violations.

"Right now the ANPR system is allowing people to continue with traffic violations beyond 100-150 violations. I heard that in recent times, a lady with a Rs 3.2 lakh traffic fine was caught , and there are many such cases where people have fines of Rs 50,000 and Rs 80,000. The system needs to be regulated up to the third violation," he added.

He also added that the only solution is either to collect the fines randomly at traffic police junctions or to suspend DLs if fines are not paid by a certain date.

Another citizen, Arika, said that traffic police should outsource the traffic fine collection to a third party.

> **It is an open secret that the traffic police have a lack of manpower. Traffic cops can't be solely responsible for collecting fines**
>
> —Citizen

"It is an open secret that the traffic police have a lack of manpower. Most of the time, traffic cops are on special duty and they can't be solely responsible for collecting fines. So if any other agency is solely responsible for traffic fine collection, it will lessen the burden and make the system more efficient," she said.

She also added that traffic police should 'name and shame' people who have more than 20 violations on their vehicle.

"Nobody wants their photo to be posted on social media with a reminder that they have violated traffic rules and still haven't paid. If the traffic police of each jurisdiction start doing it on X, people will pay," she added.

Emergency exit gaff puts student in soup

The Bengaluru International Airport authorities apprehended a 22-year-old engineering student, Karthik Karan, on May 1, for allegedly attempting to open the emergency exit door during his domestic flight. Karan, originally from Kolkata and a first-year MCA student, was on his maiden air travel to Bengaluru to visit a friend. The cabin crew intervened, preventing any untoward incident, and labeled Karan as an unruly passenger. Upon landing at Kempegowda International Airport, he was handed over to security personnel. Following a complaint by Indigo's assistant manager, Mohammed Umar, Karan was arrested under Section 336 of the Indian Penal Code for endangering human life. Although Karan denied attempting to open the door, stating he was merely using the handle to stand up, the police recorded his statement before releasing him on station bail.

BMB

Nagesh Kapoor is training command chief

Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor assumed the appointment of Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) Training Command (TC) on Wednesday. Air Marshal N Kapoor was commissioned into the Fighter stream of the Indian Air Force on December 6, 1986. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Defence Services Staff College and National Defence College.

A Qualified Flying Instructor and a Fighter Combat Leader, he has more than 3,400 hours of flying experience. His operational tenures include being the Commanding Officer of a fighter squadron in the Central Sector, Station Commander of a flying base in the Western Sector and Air Officer Commanding of a premier air base. He has done instructional tenures as Chief Instructor (Flying) at Air Force Academy and Directing Staff at the prestigious Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. During his tenure at Air Force Academy, the Air Officer was instrumental in the induction and operationalisation of PC-7 MK II aircraft in the IAF. He has also undertaken a diplomatic assignment as Defence Attaché, Pakistan. His staff appointments include Assistant Chief of Air Staff Operations (Strategy) at Air HQ, Air Defence Commander at South Western Air Command and Senior Air Staff Officer at HQ Central Air Command. Before assuming the present appointment, he served as the Air Officer-in-Charge Personnel at Air HQ. He was awarded with Vayu Sena Medal in 2008 and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2022.

BMB

Traffic police to take up violation issue with delivery platforms

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Traffic cops plan to highlight the issue of traffic violations by gig workers to delivery platforms. Reckless driving and footpath riding are seen as common traffic violations by gig workers.

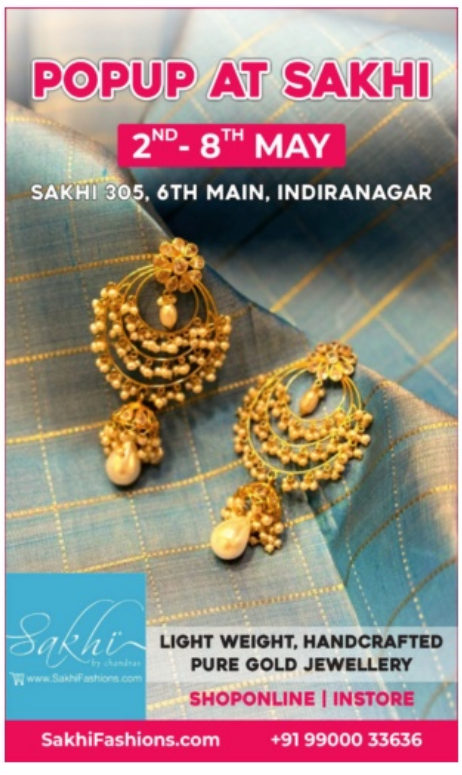
It is said that under the pressure of tight work deadlines, gig workers are forced to violate traffic laws. Previously, traffic cops have conducted awareness and license drives, now they are planning to address the issue with the delivery platforms under which these gig workers are employed.

A senior traffic official told BM, "Two months back, we had conducted a drive and we checked for their driving licences. Some of them were found without licences. While some gig workers are using vehicles on rent that do not require a licence, it's vital that those using vehicles have DLs. We have noticed that they ride recklessly and on n footpaths. In the past, we have spoken to the delivery companies to take note of the traffic violations. We will take up the drive and ensure talks with the delivery companies," said a traffic official.

While civic activists observe these violations, they say that tight deadlines and pressure drives these workers to the violations. "These gig workers are in a hurry and many times, they can be seen speeding and taking unnecessary risks in residential areas. They can be seen talking on the phone and driving and honking on roads. Sometimes, during non-peak hours they get onto no-entry roads. The gig workers are also under immense stress due to the paucity of time for deliveries and their remuneration is dependent on these deliveries. However, these platforms don't take the onus of their partners' violating traffic laws so action should be taken against these companies. These platforms should conduct routine training for the riders for safe driving practices. They should have a testing and certification process for driving," said Rajkumar Dugar, Convenor of Citizens for Citizens(C4C).

> **Companies should take up onus of partner safety and pressure of fast deliveries**

Vinay Sarathi, President of United Food Delivery Partners' Union, welcomed the move by the police officials. "If the police feel the violations by gig workers are increasing, they should speak to the platforms imposing these short-duration deliveries. Without meeting the deadlines, they could lose a big chunk of their earnings alongside petrol expenses. We are also worried about the life of the gig workers who put it at risk to meet deadlines," he added.



Dual approach: BBMP plans for sustainable, efficient roads

BBMP undertakes concreting of 102 km of road network in city

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> **The rationale behind the choice of white-topping for high-density roads is the durability and reduced maintenance requirements of concrete surfaces**
> –BS Prahlad, BBMP chief engineer

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has taken up a project to comprehensively develop the city's arterial and sub-arterial roads, along with pedestrian pathways, with an investment of Rs 852 crore. This initiative is part of BBMP's larger vision under the Brand Bengaluru-Safe Travel theme, which aims to enhance transportation infrastructure and ensure safe travel for residents and commuters.

Earlier, BBMP had submitted an action plan to the state government, seeking approval for its proposed developments. The plan outlined its expectations of generating property tax revenues amounting to Rs 1,200 crore over the next three fiscal years. The intention was to allocate a significant portion of these revenues towards infrastructure projects, including the comprehensive development of roads and pedestrian pathways. Upon review, the government approved BBMP's project, albeit with 13 specific conditions that it must adhere to during the implementation phase. These conditions likely include guidelines on budget allocation, project timelines, quality standards, and environmental considerations, among others.

"The need for this development stems from the extensive road network in Bengaluru, which spans approximately 14,000 kilometres. Within this network, 1,344 km of roads have been categorised as arterial and sub-arterial roads. These roads play a crucial role in facilitating the city's traffic flow but often experience congestion during peak hours due to heavy vehicular movement. Moreover, frequent usage by goods vehicles and other factors contribute to the rapid wear and tear of these roads, necessitating regular maintenance efforts by BBMP. Annually, BBMP invests substantial funds in asphalting these roads to ensure smooth and safe travel for commuters," said a BBMP official.

In light of these challenges, the palike has decided to upgrade most of these arterial and sub-arterial roads from black-topped surfaces to more durable concrete roads. Currently, 196 km of road length in Bengaluru already features white-topped surfaces. To kickstart this transformation, BBMP's road infrastructure department is undertaking the white-topping of 102 km of roads, divided into nine distinct packages. The tendering process for these packages has been finalised, with government approval secured for the project. Implementation is expected to commence shortly. Additionally, BBMP plans to asphalt 65 km of road at an estimated cost of Rs 800 crore. "This dual approach of white-topping and asphalt paving aims to address the diverse needs of the city's road infrastructure, catering to high-traffic areas with concrete roads while ensuring smooth surfaces on other stretches through asphalt paving," added the official.

A BBMP official said, "We have allocated Rs 752.39 crore for the white-topping of 102 km of roads, coupled with the enhancement of footpaths. These areas encompass a range of locations from Jayamahal main road to Tagore Circle, Sanjay Nagar main road, Sultan Palya main road, RT Nagar main road, Ballari road, Jamboo Bazaar to Tannery road, and more."

BS Prahlad, BBMP chief engineer BBMP, said, "The rationale behind the choice of white-topping for high-density roads is the durability and reduced maintenance requirements of concrete surfaces. As part of the larger plan, BBMP aims to convert 196 km of arterial and sub-arterial roads into concrete surfaces, with a phased approach to eventually cover the entire network." In the current fiscal year, BBMP plans to initiate work on concretizing 350 km of roads, signalling a significant step towards achieving their infrastructure development goals. This strategic approach aligns with BBMP's vision of creating a sustainable and efficient transportation network that enhances the overall quality of life for Bengaluru's residents.

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CHANDAN B, ADVOCATE
Nelamangala Date: 30/04/2024

Awareness drive takes on building deviations, violations in Cooke Town

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Residents of Cooke town participating in awareness programme

With an objective to drive home the point to the builders and developers to construct buildings in adherence to sanctioned plans only so that Cooke Town is developed in an orderly and green manner, the Cooke Town Residents Association (CTRA) organised an awareness drive on Wednesday. Around 50 residents, holding placards, participated in the drive.

It is said the CTRA has been receiving many notices from members about new constructions coming up all over the area with visible violations regarding setbacks, additional floors, and other deviations. The members exerted considerable pressure on the executive committee to take up such cases with the authorities. "This is something that Cooke Town has been grasping for the last 10 to 15 years. A lot of builders are coming in and violating building sanction plans. It has been causing a lot of frustration among the residents. We have complained to all authorities concerned, but no action has been taken against those violating building bye-laws," said CTRA president Paul George. CTRA has decided to conduct a similar drive every month in the future. "We have invited the BBMP authorities for Wednesday's drive, but no official attended the event. There are some violations where more than seven floors are constructed on a 30x40 feet site. We have received great support from the local MLA who has decided to take up this issue," he said.

It is said the first meeting of the Compliance Action Committee (CAC), a sub-committee of the CTRA, was held on April 9, wherein a slew of measures were suggested and an action plan was drawn informing the format for raising such issues with the authorities concerned. In all, 12 such complaints have been listed so far and forwarded to the authorities concerned, urging them to submit feedback so as to suitably appraise the aggrieved and other parties. It is said that Imran, additional director of town planning, and Chetan, assistant engineer, have agreed to share such information within a week. "The CTRA received 28 complaints from residents about the violation of building bye-laws," said R Albert, chairman of CAC.

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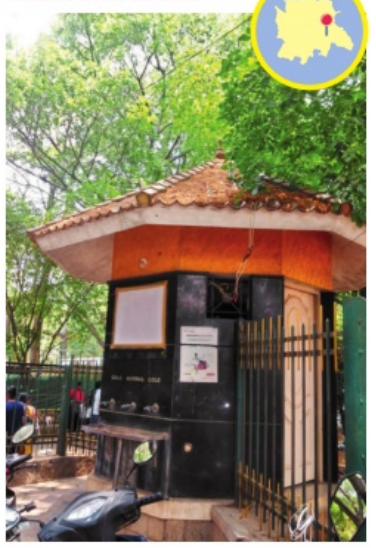
Is it a showpiece?
Malleshwaram

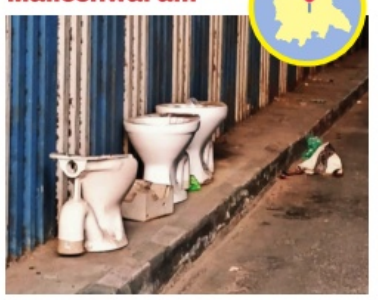


This water kiosk, typical of many located at 18th Cross, Govt School, Malleswaram (opposite Kendriya Vidyalaya), is lying defunct and fails to serve the purpose.

Water on roads
Cubbonpet

The negligence of officials at Cubbonpet has led to the loss of millions of litres of precious water, highlighting a critical issue of mismanagement and accountability.

Dumped toilets
Malleshwaram



Commodes have been dumped at the Malleshwaram 5th Cross underpass.

No city for treated water

Sewage treatment plants at various apartment complexes non-functional; even if they are working water is not being used

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PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

Even as there is a water crisis in Bengaluru, officials lament the fact that treated water is not being utilised properly. The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) previously required apartment complexes with 20 or more homes to have sewage treatment plants (STPs).

Despite the existence of over a 1,000 such complexes, some of which house over a 100 homes, treated water from these STPs remains underutilised. An official highlighted the issue, stating that many STPs in these complexes are non-functional or merely for show.

Even where they are operational, the treated water is not being reused; instead, it flows into drains. This inefficiency prompted Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to emphasise in the 2024-25 budget that treated water from STPs must be reused, aligning with Karnataka State Pollution Control Board guidelines.

"In Bengaluru, a staggering 1,440 MLD (million liters per day) of wastewater is generated daily. The BWSSB operates 33 treatment plants capable of purifying 1,212 MLD.

The Koramangala-Challaghatta valley contributes 308 MLD of treated water, Bellandur adds 90 MLD of secondary treated water, with approximately 370 MLD used to replenish lakes in Kolar district.

Meanwhile, the Hennur-Nagawara valley and Horamavu contribute 80 MLD and 20 MLD of treated water, respectively, to lakes in Chikkaballapur district. This indicates that out of the 1,212 MLD of treated water, 750 MLD is being reused effectively.

Additionally, entities such as Kempegowda International Airport, Indian Air Force, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Rail Wheel Factory, and various private companies are also reusing treated water.

Moreover, treated water finds application in public spaces like Cubbon Park and Lalbagh, showcasing efforts to optimise water resources and promote sustainability," said an official.

Meanwhile, a BWSSB official said that due to the lack of rain in Bengaluru city, many borewells have dried up as the groundwater level has fallen.

"Cooperation of all is important to adequately manage the escalating problems. It has been ordered in the public interest to install a device called Flow Restrictor/Aerator in the taps used for cleaning in malls, commercial complexes, apartments, government buildings, luxury hotels, restaurants, and public areas, including religious places by March 31.

The deadline was extended till April 7 but as many are yet to install it, the deadline was then extended till April 30."

Officials have stated that Flow Restrictor/Aerator devices should be installed in malls, commercial complexes, government buildings, luxury hotels, restaurants, and public areas used for cleanliness (excluding apartments).

In areas with high water consumption, the Board prefers this installation. The cost of installing the Flow Restrictor/Aerator device will be included in the monthly bill of respective customers. Violation will lead to penalty as per section 53 of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Act-1964.

The BWSSB can reduce water supply by up to 50%, and a fine of Rs. 5,000. Repeated violations will result in a fine of Rs 5,000 along with an additional penalty of Rs. 500 per day.

On the other hand, customers who comply with this procedure will be awarded a certificate of Environment-Friendly Green Star User by BWSSB, added the officials.

Respect, solidarity

Members of Various trade unions take part in a rally to mark the International Labour Day in Bengaluru on Wednesday

On May Day, unsung heroes celebrated with a precious sip

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Amidst the scorching heat and relentless traffic, a heartwarming initiative unfolded on May Day. The Indian Ploggers Army, in collaboration with volunteers from the Robin Hood Army and Helping Heroes, embarked on a mission to express gratitude to the unsung heroes of everyday life – the auto drivers, bus drivers, roadside vendors, and traffic cops.

Over 200 individuals were treated to refreshments served in stainless-steel tumblers, a symbolic gesture with a green touch. This initiative aimed not only to acknowledge the tireless efforts of these workers but also to emphasise on the importance of environmental consciousness.

Raj, a representative from the Ploggers Army, shared the motivation behind the initiative. He said, "No work is insignificant. This is our small gesture to thank the people who work relentlessly on roads irrespective of weather… be it a bus driver or a conductor, roadside fruit vendors, and the traffic cops."

The sweltering heat of Bengaluru, coupled with the demanding nature of their jobs, makes it essential to appreciate the dedication of these individuals. Despite the challenges they face, they continue to serve the community with unwavering commitment.

By choosing to serve refreshments in reusable containers, the organisers not only expressed their gratitude but also demonstrated their commitment to environmental sustainability. This conscious decision highlighted the importance of reducing waste and preserving the health of our planet while expressing gratitude to those who serve our communities.

Furthermore, the initiative sends a broader message to others engaged in charitable activities. It proves that even simple acts of kindness can be executed in an eco-friendly manner, without harming the environment.

By adopting sustainable practices, we can ensure that our acts of charity do not contribute to the pollution of our surroundings, the organisers said. "I've been driving the auto for over a decade, and it's rare to receive such appreciation. It's heartening to know that our hard work doesn't go unnoticed" said a driver.

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Kharge urges people to unite to save Constitution, democracy

'Rift being created by Modi between people who were living together in trust'

YADGIR

AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday called on voters to follow the slogan 'Modi Hatao, Desh Bachao' (Remove Modi, Save the Country), urging them to unite to save the Constitution and democracy in the country by electing Congress candidates in the Lok Sabha polls.

Kharge was addressing a public meeting here in favour of Congress candidates for the May 7 Lok Sabha polls, the second phase of polling in Karnataka.

Accusing Modi of inciting fights, Kharge said that while Modi "says Hindu-Muslim for everything, this (Yadgir) was a part of Nizam (Hyderabad) state. Hindus and Muslims have been together here and have celebrated each other's festivals together. Many Hindus here had Muslim names like Nawaz Reddy, among others."

While addressing a public meeting here, he said, "There were never fights (between communities) here. Modi has come to create a rift. Rift is being created by Modi between people who were living together trusting each other."

The Congress has an intention to do a caste census in the country, Kharge said, adding, "It is to know how many graduates are there in a family, to know does the family have a land or not? What is their income? -- To know this we want to do a caste census.

"But, Modi is telling people that Congress wants to do an X-ray. He is saying that Congress wants to know about the extent of gold and land each family has. He is saying that even your 'mangalsutra' will be taken away and given to Muslims." He said, "We have the Constitution and its protection. We will do it (caste census). This is a democracy, Mr Modi, not a dictatorship, not autocracy. I don't know whether you are in illusion or what."

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and other party leaders attended the public meeting. Stating that the five 'guarantees' given by the Congress government in Karnataka have been a "big gift" to women, youth and farmers, Kharge complimented the chief minister and deputy chief minister and the government for it.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge addresses a public meeting for Lok Sabha elections

> **"Our guarantees have reached people and you the people are evidence for it, but where is Modi's guarantee? He never walks the talk, only speaks lies**
>
> –Mallikarjun Kharge, AICC chief

"Wherever the Congress party government is in power, we have walked the talk, but wherever the BJP government is in power, Modi did not give anything to anyone, other than just speaking," he said.

"Modi's job is to target the Congress, Gandhi family and myself," the AICC chief said.

"We don't want to target Modi, but we are forced to take his name as both he himself and the BJP gives credit to Modi for everything. To say it has not been done, we are forced to take Modi's name, while communicating it to people," Kharge explained. "They (BJP) say 'Modi ki guarantee', where is Modi's guarantee? Our guarantees have reached people and you the people are evidence for it, but where is Modi's guarantee? He promised 2 crore jobs a year, Rs 15 lakh to every bank account -- did it happen? He (Modi) never walks the talk, only speaks lies, so I have named him 'Sullina Saradara' (lord of lies)," he added.

Alleging that Modi is not interested in giving permanent jobs to people as they may not listen to him if they have stable jobs, Kharge said Modi doesn't want it to happen, he wants the poor to remain poor and the rich to remain rich.

Hitting out at Modi for repeatedly attacking him, Sonia Gandhi and other Congress leaders for not attending the consecration of Ram lalla idol at Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, he said, "When to go where we know...do we have to go when you call? We will go when we want."

Further hitting out at Modi for not inviting President Droupadi Murmu for the consecration ceremony or the inauguration of the new parliament building, and alleging that similar treatment was extended to former President Ramnath Kovind, he said, "Leaving everyone, he (Modi) himself went there, offered pooja... Sadhus, sanths and dharma gurus should have done it. Is he (Modi) a dharma guru?" "First, allow all the poor, downtrodden, Dalits, backward classes and women in all temples and then call me, I will come," he said.

Recalling his tenure as Endowment and Revenue Minister, Kharge said he had supported the development or construction of hundreds of Hanuman temples in almost all the villages. "Did we do it after Modi told us? Did we do it for votes? We respected the beliefs of the people and did it. You (Modi) are taking lord Ram's name for votes," he charged. Modi accuses Congress of disrespecting women and being involved in corruption," Kharge said, but such people are either with or in the BJP. "Keep such people away from power." **–PTI**

Amit Shah holds massive roadshow in Haveri

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday held a massive roadshow at Ranebennur town in Karnataka's Haveri district to garner support for the BJP candidate from the Haveri Lok Sabha constituency -- former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai.

The 30-minute roadshow began from the Kurubagiri Cross and passed through M.G. Road and concluded at the Ashoka Circle in Ranebennur town.

HM Shah was accompanied by Bommai, former Karnataka Cabinet minister B.C. Patil and others.

Thousands of party workers and supporters were present at the roadshow. The people showered flowers on the vehicle on which HM Shah was moving during the roadshow.

A massive crowd had gathered on both sides of the road, on buildings and balconies of the houses, and commercial establishments.

File photo of Amit Shah

Later, addressing the gathering, HM Amit Shah thanked the enthusiastic crowd for turning up in large numbers while calling Basavaraj Bommai "one of the top leaders of the state".

HM Amit Shah appealed to the people to vote for Bommai and strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Bommai is facing Anandswamy Gaddadevarmath, a fresh face from the Congress. He is the son of former Congress MLA GS Gaddadevaramath. **–IANS**

'Cong doesn't have courage to declare Rahul as PM candidate'

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Wednesday targeted the Gandhi family and stated that after ruling the country for 60 years, the family is still in search of a candidate for the Prime Minister's post.

"The Congress does not have the courage to declare Rahul Gandhi as the prime ministerial candidate," he alleged.

Addressing a gathering in Dharwad, Joshi claimed that if Rahul Gandhi was declared the prime ministerial candidate, the party won't get votes.

"There is a huge difference between the earlier Gandhis and the present Gandhis. In the present day 'Gandhi company', there is no prime ministerial candidate," he alleged.

File photo of Pralhad Joshi at an election campaign

"The Congress does not care about the protection of the country. The party gives importance to only power, vote bank and appeasement. They must think about making the country stronger with better Defence policies and economic policies," he opined.

"Ever since Narendra Modi became the PM, India is becoming stronger. It has proved its might at the global level. Economically it has taken leaps and it is also in the forefront in terms of development. At the global level the country is recognised as Modi's India," Joshi claimed.

"During its 60-year rule the Congress got 60,000 km of national highways constructed. But, late PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee got 30,000 kms of national highways constructed in five years. Prime Minister Modi, in 10 years got 60,000 kms of highways constructed. This includes four-lane, six-lane, eight-lane and 10-lane highways," Joshi claimed.

"Prime Minister Modi is striving towards the welfare of people belonging to all sections and has implemented many schemes to eradicate poverty," Joshi said. **–IANS**

HEALTH TIP: For a healthy immune system, make sure you do not skip breakfast

Green onions have some organ sulphur compounds that may prove anti-inflammatory and can help prevent osteoarthritis

CATCH UP

Why are some people faster than others? 2 exercise scientists explain

Usain Bolt, the world's fastest person, ran a 100-metre sprint at a speed of 23.35 miles per hour (37.57 km per hour).

That's mind-blowingly fast for a human. It's about the same speed as cruising in a car through your neighborhood or in a school zone. It might not seem that fast when you're in the car, but for a person? Few runners in the world can even come close.

There are several reasons why some people can run very fast while others tend to run more slowly. Genetics – the traits you inherit from your parents – play a role, but so do your choices and experiences.

As pediatric exercise scientists, we create and evaluate programs that help children be healthy. The exciting news is that while you have no control over your genetics, you can train to improve your speed.

Fast twitch, slow twitch

One major factor that influences your ability to run fast is the structure of your body, including how your muscles work.

The human body has more than 600 muscles that work together, allowing you to move in different directions and at various speeds. These muscles are made up of groups of fibers. There are two main types: fast twitch and slow twitch.

Muscles have different mixes of these fiber types. For example, two muscles make up the calf: One is predominantly fast twitch – that's the gastrocnemius, used for sprinting and jumping. The other is mostly slow twitch – that's the soleus, used for walking and jogging.

Fast-twitch muscle fibers are larger and help your body move quickly and generate significant force. Sprinters tend to have an abundance of fast-twitch muscle fibers. However, this muscle fiber type also tires quickly, which limits how long you can run at top speed to relatively short distances.

Slow-twitch muscle fibers are smaller and help you run at slower speeds, but with greater endurance. Long-distance runners and competitive cyclists tend to have a lot of these muscles.

How much you have of each type of muscle fiber – fast twitch and slow twitch – is mostly determined by your genes, so you'll have to work with what you're born with when it comes to muscle types. But exercises can help train those muscles.

Your brain plays a big role

Physical ability isn't just about muscle. Your brain plays an important role, too.

Your skeletal muscles are controlled by your brain – you think about your actions and then execute the movements. For example, you can control how long your stride is, how your arms move, how your feet hit the ground and even the techniques you use to breathe.

You can teach your body to use the best running techniques. That includes proper posture, so your body is standing tall, and an economical stride, so your feet land below you rather than too far out in front, where they can slow you down.

You can also improve your running form by using your whole body, with your arms pumping in opposition to the legs, running on your toes and maximizing the time spent in flight phase with both feet off the ground. Using proper running techniques helps the muscles create more force and work together, which helps you run faster.

The more you practice an activity, the better you will get. As your ability to run fast increases, challenge yourself to run even faster.

How to train to run faster – myth-busting!

You may have heard your friends chatting about ways to boost your speed or searched the internet for tips on getting faster. Time to bust some of those myths.

Myth 1: You have to run as fast as you can to train to be faster. That's false!

You don't have to run as fast as you can to get faster, and it actually helps to take short breaks to recover in between activities where you are sprinting.

Myth 2: You need to lift heavy weights to get faster. False!

Functional strength training involves performing exercises that help you get better at specific movements. They involve using either medium weights or just the resistance of your own body weight. Doing planks, lunges, step-ups or jump squats are great examples. These activities focus on the muscles that are instrumental during running.

Myth 3: You need to specialize in running early in life to become a fast runner. False!

Picking one activity to focus on early in life may actually limit your ability to develop into a fast runner. Doing a variety of physical activities can help you develop new skills that improve your running. For example, the movements and endurance used in soccer may translate into the ability to run faster.

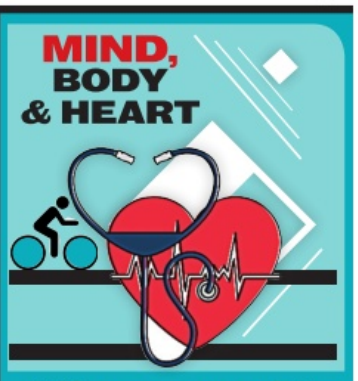
Myth 4: Training isn't fun. False!

Training programs can take many shapes and forms. You can play running games with your friends, work on fast footwork using an agility ladder or create obstacle courses. There's nothing like a little healthy competition to motivate your training.

What's important is having fun while training and participating in activities that promote running speed on a regular basis.

So, whether you want to be the next Usain Bolt or you just want to win a race against your friend, remember that with a little bit of genetic luck and hard work, it may just be possible.

(Dawn P Coe and Elizabeth (Kip) Webster, University of Tennessee, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Premature surgical menopause

Risks associated
Premature surgical menopause can significantly raise the risk of muscle disorders like chronic musculoskeletal pain and sarcopenia, according to a study on Wednesday.

Musculoskeletal pain
Musculoskeletal pain is a prevalent menopause symptom, which also affects muscle function and mass. Sarcopenia is a type of musculoskeletal disease, caused due to the age-related progressive loss of muscle mass and strength.

Hormone deficiency
More than "chronologic age", the study published online in the journal Menopause, attributed "hormone deficiency" to muscle disorders.
While menopause significantly decreases ovarian hormone levels, the decrease is even more prominent in women who have experienced premature menopause, either spontaneous or surgical. In addition, testosterone levels also decline significantly in women with premature menopause, the researchers said.
In the study of nearly 650 US women, the team found that women experiencing premature surgical menopause were more likely to develop musculoskeletal discomfort and sarcopenia than those with natural menopause at age 45 years or older.
"This study highlights the potential long-term musculoskeletal effects of premature surgical menopause, which causes a more abrupt and complete loss of ovarian hormones, including oestrogen and testosterone, than natural menopause," said Stephanie Faubion, medical director for The Menopause Society.

Use of hormone therapy
"The use of hormone therapy until the natural age of menopause has the potential to mitigate some of the adverse long-term effects of early oestrogen loss," she added.
The study also confirmed that muscle stiffness complaints were most prevalent during menopause. —IANS

Neglected drivers await allowance

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

vain. "I was in a dilemma when officials from my parent department started asking me to attend duty along with the department vehicle.

They questioned me as to why I was waiting at the election office even two days after the polling was held. I requested the election official to relieve me and make arrangements to pay the DA but the official relieved me but did not bother to pay my DA. We tried to lodge a complaint with the police but the police did not help us," said a driver.

Coming down heavily on the officials on election duty for not making arrangements to pay the DA to the drivers engaged for the Lok Sabha elections, MN Venugopal, president of Government Drivers' Federation and a social activist, said that it has become a habit for the officials on election duty to neglect the drivers assigned for the election duty.

KAUSHIK JN

"Many drivers who were assigned for election duty last year did not receive the DA. The officials on election duty asked the drivers to give their bank account details but failed to deposit the DA amount in their bank accounts.

It is a pity that many of the drivers who were on election duty for more than a month this year have not received the DA. I demand the authorities concerned fix this problem as early as possible for the benefit of drivers," said Venugopal.

It is learnt that an official on election duty in RR Nagar has assured the drivers to pay the DA as soon as the higher authorities allocate funds. An assistant election officer of Shivajinagar Assembly constituency relieved 23 drivers from election duty on Monday afternoon.

Citizens' suggestions: Setting up bollards, raising height

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

street vendors and shopkeepers who keep their supplies outside," she said.

She added that the issue of footpath riding will solve itself if the traffic congestion in the city sees a significant reduction.

"From what I have witnessed, it is often two-wheeler riders, who are impatient to wait for the stipulated signal duration, hopping onto the footpaths. There is a systematic need to put focus on public transportation systems and enhancing civic infrastructure," she explained.

On the other hand, another pedestrian told Bangalore Mirror that installation of bollards does not take into consideration certain sections of pedestrians such as wheelchair users, the visually impaired and guardians who carry their children around in strollers.

"The municipal body must take note of these vulnerable categories and ensure that their free movement is not impeded. As an alternative it can ensure that all footpaths are raised, leaving no room for motorists to enter the footpath," he said. He added that first, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) must ensure that the footpaths are retrieved from deplorable conditions, fit for use for pedestrians.

"Broken footpaths and footpath parking are a major hindrance. Citizens go out to even keep their potted plants on the footpaths, like it is their personal property. These behaviours must be put an end to," another pedestrian said.

Cases against excess fare

BTP have also booked 1,283 against auto drivers for demanding excess fare and 1,389 for refusing to go on hire. Commuters have consistently complained regarding both the issues while auto unions hold that the main reason for this is that the auto rickshaw fares are not adjusted according to the price increase.

Auto rickshaw fares have been revised only twice in the last decade and even that has not kept pace with price hikes.

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I Rebecca Alison George, W/o Brian Michael Patel, R/o FF02, Rahim Manzil Apts, Trinity Christina Layout, Kothanur, Bangalore, 560077, have changed my name from Rebecca George to Rebecca Alison George for all future purposes.

I, MANIGANDAN GOWRAPPAN S/o Gowrappan, R/at No.6, Ground floor, 5th Main, K.R Garden, Murugesh palya, Bengaluru-560017 have changed my name to ANBARASAN GOWRAPPAN, vide affidavit dt: 30.04.2024 Notary Meer Hassan, B.lore.

I, Bheemesha Byrathi Madappa S/o Madappa R/o No. 2, Near Blessing Garden Road, Bairathi, Bengaluru-560077 have changed my name to Bhimesh B M for all purposes.

I, Sudha Vishnu Chinagundi residing at 14, Thulaja Krupa, 3rd B Cross, Basavasamithi Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore – 560097 have change my name to Sudha Chingundi vide affidavait dated 30.4.2024 sworn before Notary N Mahesha Bangalore

I, Vishnu Annarao Chinagundi residing at 14, Thulaja Krupa, 3rd B Cross, Basavasamithi Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore – 560097 have change my name to Vishnu Annarao Chingundi vide affidavait dated 30.4.2024 sworn before Notary N Mahesha Bangalore

I, Purushothama Ramakrishna Reddy R/o No 85 5th Main 12th Cross, Srinidhi Layout, Konanakunte Bengaluru-560062 Have Changed my name to Purushotham R vide Affidavit Dt: 01/05/2024 Before Notary B S Padmaprasad, B'luru.

I, Ashwin Santanagopalan R/o Villa-23 NVT Life Square Nagodanahalli Whitefield Bengaluru-560066 have changed my daughter's name from Sriha Ashwin Ashwin Santanagopalan to Sriha Ashwin for all Purposes.

I, Kumari Bhavna Rajpoot R/a no 35, 8th main Road, IEHCS Layout, Vidyaranyapura Bangalore 560097. I have changed my name to Bhavna Rajpoot vide affidavit dated 27-04-24. Sworn before notary C.N. Chandrashekar Bangalore

I Harsha Ratansi Patel W/O, Vinod Shivji Patel R/o No 505 Ideal Homes Layout 12th Cross 36th Main Rajarajeshwari Nagar Kenchanahalli Bengaluru - 560098. have changed my name to Harsha Vinod Patel .

I Kumar Narayanrao Alias KUMAR.S S/o Narayanrao Deshpande, R/o 1056, 1st F main road, Girinagar, Bangalore-560085 have changed my name from to Kumar Narayanrao Deshpande

I, Sailashree Nataraj w/o Nataraj B M R/o No 196, 23rd Cross, 6th Block, Jayanagar Bengaluru-560070 have changed my name to Shylashree for all Purposes.

Sexual assault probe

Moving on as per law

KAUSHIK JN

No question of protecting anyone, says Parameshwara

File photo from a protest by students belonging to NSUI at Freedom Park

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Wednesday said there is no question of protecting anyone including Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna over an alleged sex scandal involving him and that action has been initiated in accordance with law by forming a Special Investigation Team (SIT).

He was reacting to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement on Tuesday wanting to know why the Congress government in Karnataka did not take any action against Prajwal Revanna.

The 33-year-old Prajwal Revanna is the son of HD Deve Gowda's elder son HD Revanna, who is an MLA and a former Minister. Prajwal is the BJP-JD(S) alliance's candidate from Hassan, which went to the polls on Friday.

Explicit video clips allegedly involving Prajwal Revanna had started making the rounds in Hassan recently, following which the state government constituted an SIT to probe the alleged sex scandal involving the MP.

SIT on Tuesday issued notice to Prajwal Revanna and his father HD Revanna, who have been booked for alleged sexual harassment, at the Holenarsipura police station in Hassan district on April 28 based on a complaint by a woman who worked in their house, directing them to appear for investigation.

"No one is arrested all of a sudden. Factors such as complaints, evidence, sections that have been invoked, whether it is bailable or non bailable will be considered. So they (SIT) have issued notice under Section 41A of CrPC. Within 24 hours they (Revanna and Prajwal) will have to appear, if not further procedures will follow," Parameshwara said, in response to a question.

While speaking to reporters here, he said, the SIT was formed immediately by the state government and investigation has started.

"Saying that we (govt) did not do anything (is not right). The Union Home Minister has said it, it has come to my notice. There is no question of protecting anyone in this case. Action has been initiated in accordance with law. It (case) is linked to a lot of lives, so things cannot be done as per one's wishes. That's the reason SIT was formed," he added.

The SIT led by B K Singh, Additional Director-General of Police, Criminal Investigation Department, was formed on April 28 to probe the alleged sex scandal involving the MP.

Noting that SIT has recorded the statement of the complainant, the Home Minister said that it is functioning procedurally within the framework of law.

To a question as to who leaked the videos, he said, "SIT will look into it, I cannot say much about it."

SIT has issued the notice and there is evidence to prove that Prajwal Revanna has gone abroad and his air ticket and other details have been found, Parameshwara said. "The procedures required to get him back, SIT will do it," he added.

"Whether there is a requirement of the central government's support or SIT will find and get him back themselves, what procedures they (SIT) may adopt, it is left to them," he said.

Prajwal Revanna is said to have flown abroad after the first phase of Lok Sabha polls in Karnataka held on April 26.

Asked about JD(S) leader and Prajwal's uncle H D Kumaraswamy's allegation that Deputy CM DK Shivakumar is behind the video leak, Parameshwara said, "I have noticed it. Many people have made statements in this regard. I cannot answer it. After the SIT report comes, based on facts, action will be taken. So we cannot make any statements now."

Factors such as complaints, proof, sections invoked, whether it is bailable or non bailable will be considered

The JD(S) led by Deve Gowda and Kumaraswamy has welcomed the SIT probe. —PTI

Truth will prevail: Prajwal's post

Grandson of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda and suspended JD(S) leader Prajwal Revanna, who is in the eye of a storm over obscene videos of him, on Wednesday commented for the first time on the issue.

In a social media post Prajwal Revanna sought seven days for his appearance before the Special Investigation Team (SIT).

Prajwal Revanna's obscene video showing sexual harassment and abuse of women has taken the political circles in Karnataka by storm.

Taking to social media, Prajwal Revanna stated on Wednesday, "Truth will prevail soon. I am not in Bengaluru to attend the enquiry. I have communicated to CID, Bengaluru through my advocate."

He also posted a letter submitted to the authorities through his advocate addressed to the SP and Investigation Officers, Special Investigation Team (SIT) and Criminal Investigation Department (CID). Prajwal Revanna's counsel Arun G stated in his submission to the SIT that authorities have pasted a notice on the leader's residence in Holenarasipura town.

As per the notice issued under the CRPC Section 41A issued on April 30, Prajwal Revanna has been asked to appear before the SIT on May 1. "My client Prajwal Revanna is on tour outside Bengaluru and informed me about the notice. My client has sought seven days to appear before the SIT as per the direction of the notice. I request on his behalf to provide him an opportunity on a different date after seven days to appear before the authorities," the letter stated.

Advocate G Arun stated that he had personally handed over the requisition letter to the SIT. "The officers have not responded yet but I am confidant of getting seven days' time," he stated. IANS

CM writes to PM Modi to cancel Prajwal's diplomatic passport

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to take action to cancel the diplomatic passport of Prajwal Revanna, Janata Dal (Secular) MP, who is said to have flown to Europe after being accused of sexually exploiting several women.

PM Modi during a campaign with HD Deve Gowda and Prajwal

"...This is to urge you kindly, to move the Ministries of External Affairs and Home Affairs to take swift action to cancel the Diplomatic Passport of Prajwal Revanna and to take such other steps using Diplomatic and Police channels of the Government of India as well as International Police agencies to ensure the swift return of the absconding Member of Parliament to face the full force of law," Siddaramaiah said in his letter to the Prime Minister.

The Chief Minister said that allegations against Revanna are horrific and shameful and have shaken the conscience of the country. ANI

'HDK, BJP leaders behind video leak'

The political slugfest over the release of videos showing sexual abuse of women by Prajwal Revanna, JD(S) sitting MP and grandson of ex-Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, turned ugly with Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Bengaluru Rural MP Suresh on Wednesday accusing some BJP leaders and former CM HD Kumaraswamy of releasing the clips.

Bengaluru Rural MP Suresh on Wednesday charged that Kumaraswamy and some BJP leaders were behind the release of the pen drive in the Hassan sex abuse case.

Speaking to reporters at his Sadashivanagar residence, he said, "Kumaraswamy and some leaders had information about Prajwal Revanna's pen drive before anyone else. They are trying to blame it on Shivakumar to save themselves."

Asked about Kumaraswamy's statement that Shivakumar was behind the release of Prajwal Revanna's pen drive, he said, "Kumaraswamy can't live without taking Shivakumar's name daily. If we were releasing the pen drive, we would have done it before the first phase of elections in Karnataka. Kumaraswamy and BJP leaders were the first to know about this. Kumaraswamy has been giving different statements each day. What is important is not Kumaraswamy's statements but justice to victims of this case."

Replying to a query on why BJP leader Devaraje Gowda was taking Dy CM Shivakumar's name, Suresh said, "He is trying to protect his political career. The incident has happened in Hassan and Hassan leaders are involved in the release. Kumaraswamy and BJP leaders are behind this. Their family members have been giving different statements each day." IANS

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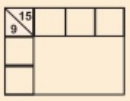
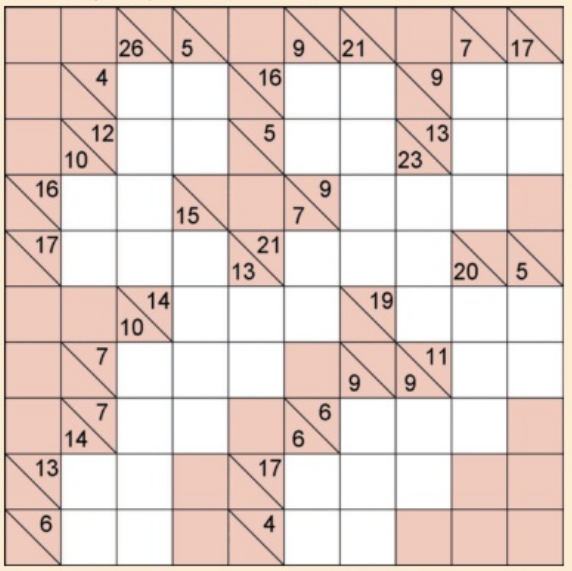
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

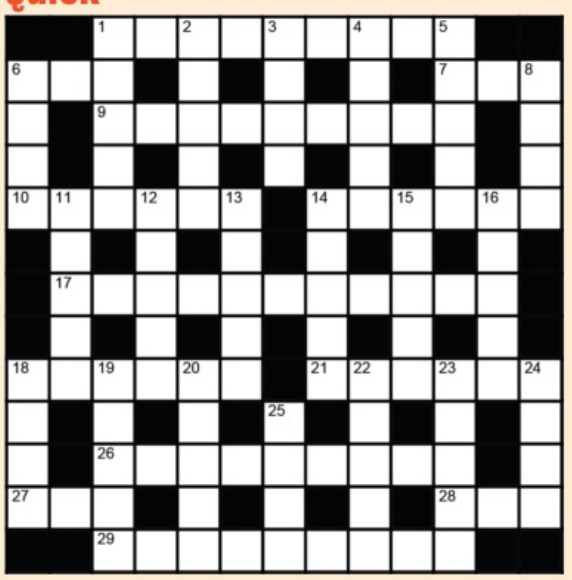


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Clumsy (3,6)
6 Vitality (3)
7 Be upset (3)
9 Earth-moving machine (9)
10 India and Mumbai's ___ Solkar (6)
14 Patch (6)
17 Elongating, extending or drawing out (11)
18 Arbitrated, referred or adjudicated (6)
21 Tip over (6)
26 Port city in Karnataka (9)
27 Take to court (3)
28 Affirmative vote (3)
29 Deferred or shelved (9)

DOWN

1 Indonesian island – "ban Mo" anagram (5)
2 Mr Modi of IPL fame (5)
3 Coal scuttles (4)
4 Prefix: half-way (Ital) (5)
5 Scour (5)
6 Ballot (4)
8 Mark of servitude (4)
11 Himachal Pradesh's ___ Valley (5)
12 An unforeseen obstacle (1,4)
13 Despised (5)
14 Peak (5)
15 Small airship (5)
16 Lawful (5)
18 Tasks (4)
19 Orb-like roofs (5)
20 Sea-eagles (5)
22 Egg-shaped body (5)
23 Beseech (5)
24 Fencer's blade (4)
25 Masculine person (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: W EQUALS I

OWLF NM GBNLF IFX; NXH WV VCBPQXF WM NHLFBMF, VBCXP WPM GOCUM UWPZ GBNLF ZFNBPM.

Linemaro

Can you ignore me so I can stare at you a bit longer?

Mindchow

The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness

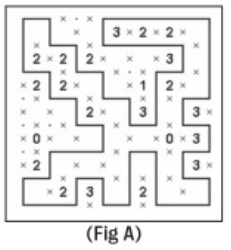
Joke of the day

I asked the bank clerk to check my balance, and he pushed me

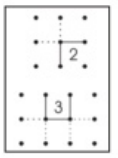
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



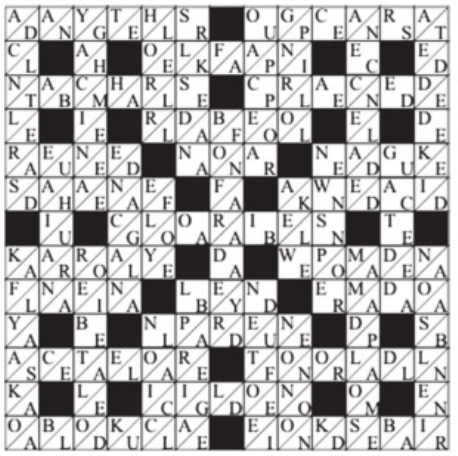
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

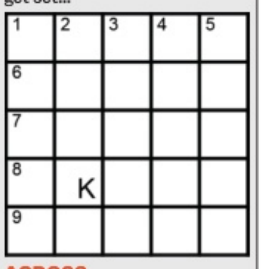
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 H acts; 6 I halt;
7 Aider; 8 Kites;
9 Up asp

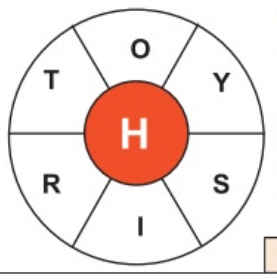
DOWN

1 Claps; 2 Auk hi;
3 Tapir; 4 Tat he;
5 Desis

Mensapuzzle

Which set of symbols should replace the question marks?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; **05** Good; **06** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

9				8	7	3	5	
			5		4	6	2	
		8						7
			6			9	8	
	1	4			8			
5						8		
	7	1	8		9			
	9	2	7	6				4

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

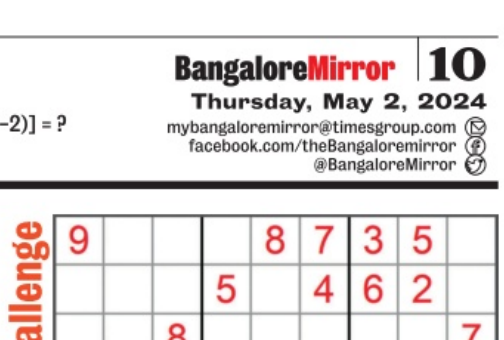
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 25
2 7 7 9

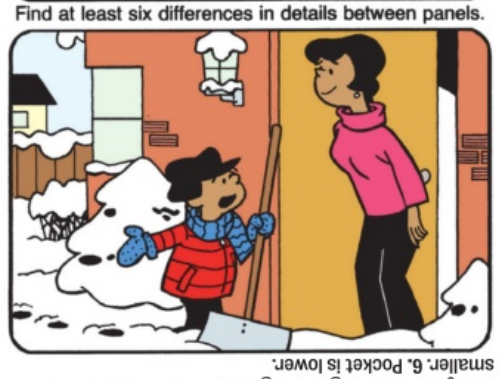
Medium = 3
2 2 3 9

Hard = 12
3 5 5 4

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Woman is taller. 2. Bricks are higher. 3. Boy's arm is longer. 4. Light is moved. 5. Window is smaller. 6. Pocket is lower.

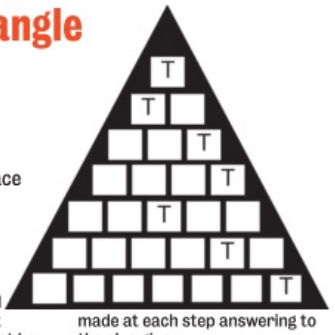
Riddler

In this teaser, I have given you 4 words. Beside each word is a series of letter groupings. Your task is to find the answer to the word on the left by choosing one letter from each of the letter groups to the right of each clue.

1. Building: ant uhp yte alk ttr wrq ase
2. Kettledrum: qwt gig hjm klp all rnq tti
3. Image: ppo ghi kcl axt dug nrm eue
4. Music: sds fof uhk jnl dlk

Alpha triangle

1 Terabyte
2 Infinitive word
3 Auction unit
4 Coagulate
5 Base eight
6 Find
7 King Arthur's palace

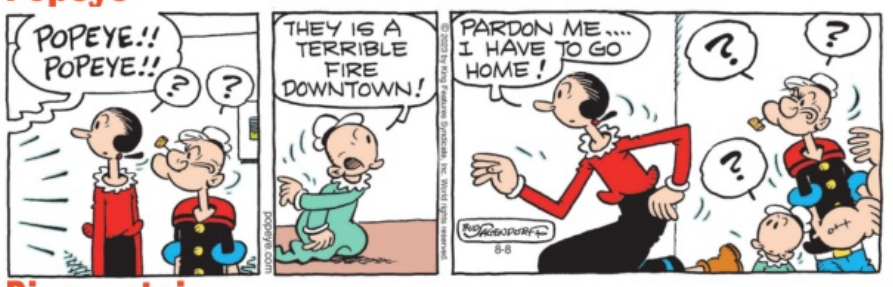


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

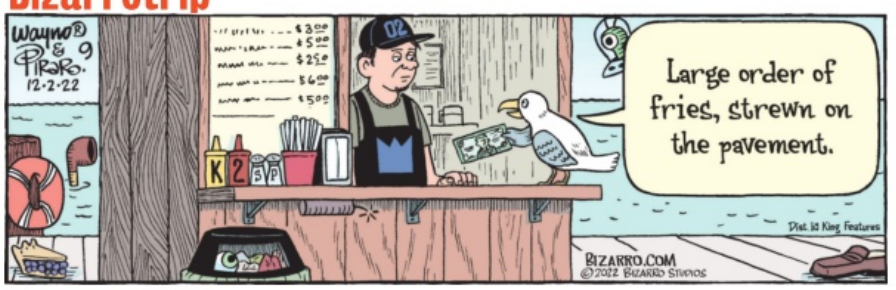
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip



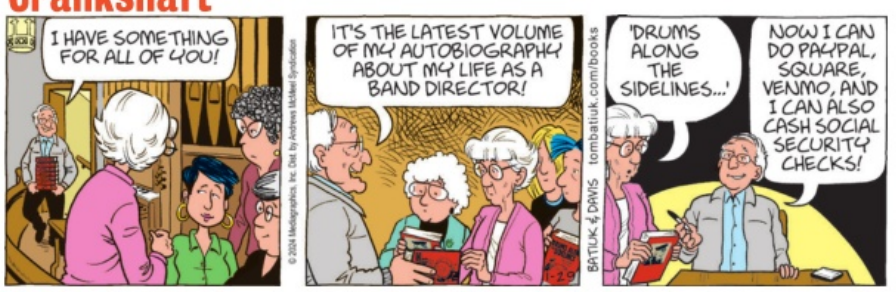
Diamond Lil

HAVE YOU SEEN THAT NEW DOLL?
IT'S CALLED "HARRIET THE HUNGRY TAXIDERMIST"
WHAT'S IT DO?
YOU PULL HER STRING AND SHE STUFFS HER FACE

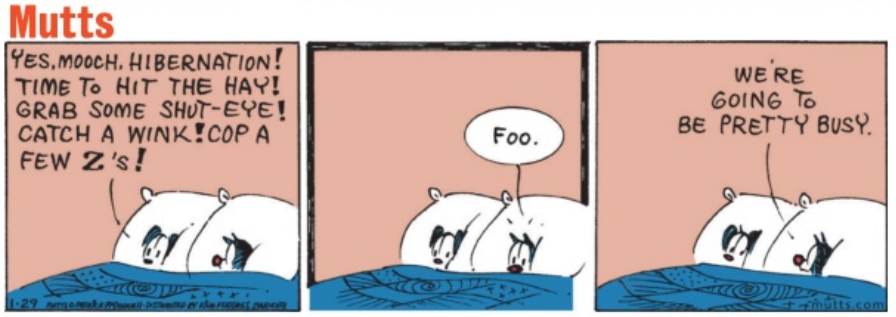
Hart of the city

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I TRIED DOUBLE DUTCH, AND I CAN'T DO IT RIGHT.
I CAN VISUALIZE HOW TO DO IT, BUT I CAN'T GET MY FEET TO FOLLOW MY BRAIN!
LET'S TRY TOGETHER. YOUR BRAINS PLUS MY FEET.
GROSS, BUT OKAY.

Crankshaft


I HAVE SOMETHING FOR ALL OF YOU!
IT'S THE LATEST VOLUME OF MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY ABOUT MY LIFE AS A BAND DIRECTOR!
'DRUMS ALONG THE SIDELINES...'
NOW I CAN DO PAYPAL, SQUARE, VENMO, AND I CAN ALSO CASH SOCIAL SECURITY CHECKS!

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may spend money to buy some creative or artistic artefacts to renovate your house, which may increase your social status. You may implement some new plans in your family business, and it will pay you in terms of gains in the near future. You may also be busy with family or social get-togethers.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today is a good day for you. You may have good vitality and health and may enjoy your work. Today, this is your challenge to avoid straightforwardness. It is advised to avoid arguments; otherwise, there may be some disputes in the family. Job seekers may find a suitable job. Lovebirds are advised to avoid arguing on worthless topics.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are not blessed by the moon. You may feel unhappy, become impatient, and not be able to fulfil your desires. You want to be detached from the given responsibility, so you may find it difficult to perform or may not complete your tasks.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon. There will be no work-related pressure, and your earnings may be converted into profits now. You are likely to invest for a long time. You may get an overseas work order, which may give you financial benefits in the future. You may find your soulmate. Students may hear good news about their academics.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and you may perform well in your professional field. You may implement your business plans very easily with the help of your colleagues. Intellectual and financial investments may start yielding profits now, which may increase confidence levels. You may also use your knowledge to gain benefits.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon. You are inclined towards spiritualism today, so you may plan to visit a religious place. Your spiritual power may make you happy, and you may think positively. You may also take an interest in occult science. You are likely to observe flawlessness in your nature.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel nervous and lack patience. To seek peace, you may also be attracted to the occult, so it is advised to follow your intuition before going ahead. You may also gain in-depth knowledge on a subject, or you may have a good focus on your research.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may help you improve your inner strength. You are likely to get some new opportunities for your business and work, which will pay you in terms of gains in the near future. Couples may hear good news in terms of childbirth. Lovebirds are advised to be clear in their opinions with each other.

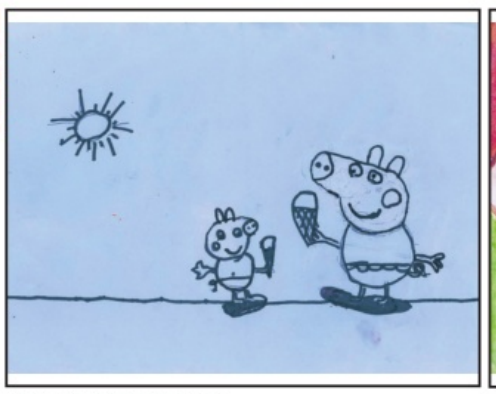
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and situations are now under control. Your performance may be praised by your seniors, and you may expect promotions. Money that was stuck is likely to be recovered now, which may help increase liquidity in the business. There may be some good news in terms of legal matters.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may hear good news in terms of a job. Jobseekers may be focused on cracking entrance exams with the help of hard work. Singles may hear good news in terms of marriage. Couples may have some good news in terms of childbirth.

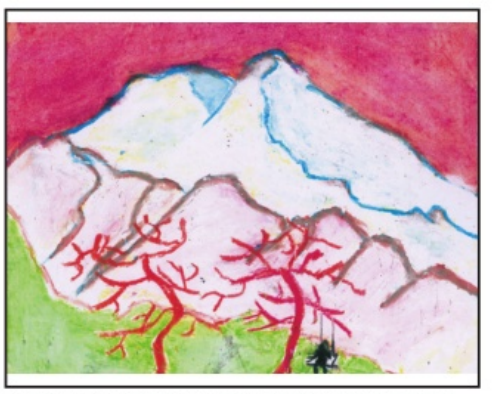
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may plan for a change in place, but it is advised to postpone the decision related to migration. It is also advised to avoid investing in business. By late evening, the situation may be under control. With the help of good advice from one of the elders, you may control the messy situation.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may have good patience; meditation may help you increase concentration, which will speed up your project. Your subordinates may cooperate with you, which may help you complete the project on time. There may be some short trips related to work, and you may likely meet an influential person who may help you boost your business.

KIDZONE



Shreya Rao, 6 years, Ekya School



Burhanuddin Rampurawala, 11 years, Candor International School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
625/8 x 5/25 x 5^-3/(2√(2))^-2
25/8 x 5 x 5^-3/(2√(2))^-2
125/8 x (1/5^3)/(1/4 x 2)
125/8 x (1/125)/(1/4 x 2)
125/8 x (1/125)/(1/8)
125/8 x 8/125 = 1

RIDDLER
1. Building: THEATRE,
2. Kettledrum: TIMPANI,
3. Image: PICTURE,
4. Music: SOUND

FAST FIVE

C	H	A	T	S
L	A	T	H	I
A	I	R	E	D
S	K	I	T	E
P	U	P	A	S

BULL'S EYE
HISTORY, hoist, host, shirt, short, shot

STRIKE OUT

A	N	G	E	L	S	■	U	P	C	A	S	T	■	■
L	■	A	■	O	K	A	P	I	■	C	■	E	■	■
T	A	M	A	L	E	■	P	L	A	C	E	D	■	■
E	■	I	■	L	A	B	E	L	■	E	■	D	■	■
R	U	N	E	■	N	O	R	■	E	D	G	E	■	■
S	H	E	A	F	■	A	■	K	N	E	A	D	■	■
■	U	■	G	L	O	R	I	E	S	■	T	■	■	■
A	R	R	A	Y	■	D	W	O	M	E	N	■	■	■
L	A	I	N	■	L	E	D	■	R	A	D	O	■	■
A	■	B	L	A	D	E	N	■	D	■	B	■	■	■
S	C	A	L	A	R	■	F	O	R	A	L	L	■	■
■	S	■	A	■	■	L	■	■	■	M	■	E	■	■
K	■	L	■	I	G	L	O	O	■	M	■	E	■	■
A	B	D	U	C	E	■	E	N	D	E	A	R	■	■

QUICK

■	■	S	U	S	P	E	N	D	E	D	■	■	■	■
■	S	U	E	■	E	■	L	■	I	■	A	Y	E	■
B	■	M	A	N	G	A	L	O	R	E	■	■	E	■
O	■	O	■	R	■	M	■	■	V	■	■	L	■	P
J	U	D	G	E	D	■	T	O	P	P	L	E	■	■
■	■	A	■	E	■	S	■	M	■	■	A	■	■	■
L	E	N	G	T	H	E	N	I	N	G	■	■	■	■
U	■	S	■	A	■	R	■	L	■	E	■	■	■	■
E	K	N	A	T	H	■	C	O	B	B	L	E	■	■
T	■	O	■	I	■	S	■	Z	■	U	■	K	■	■
O	B	U	L	L	D	O	Z	E	R	■	O	■	■	■
V	I	M	■	A	■	O	■	E	■	C	R	Y	■	■
A	L	L	T	H	U	M	B	S	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
C: the black

QUOTE UNCODE
Live as brave men; and if fortune is adverse, front its blows with brave hearts.

SUDOKU

9	4	6	2	8	7	3	5	1
1	3	7	5	9	4	6	2	8
2	5	8	1	3	6	4	9	7
7	2	5	6	4	1	9	8	3
6	8	9	3	7	5	1	4	2
3	1	4	9	2	8	7	6	5
5	6	3	4	1	2	8	7	9
4	7	1	8	5	9	2	3	6
8	9	2	7	6	3	5	1	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
T, TO, LOT, CLOT, OCTAL, LOCATE, CAMELOT.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 + 7 + 2 + 7 = 25
Medium
9 / 2 - 3 x 2 = 3
Hard
5 + 4 - 5 x 3 = 12

KAKURO

6	5	1	3	4	1	3		
9	4	17	5	8	4	13		
13	7	3	4	6	2	1	3	
7	2	1	4	9	3	8	1	3
2	9	2	3	19	8	9	8	2
5	3	6	8	21	4	8	9	20
16	7	9	15	7	9	1	6	2
4	3	1	16	7	9	23	9	1	8
12	8	4	5	2	3	13	4	9
6	5	25	9	21	7	17		

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Why so transphobic? — Actor Daniel Radcliffe feels "really sad" by Harry Potter author JK Rowling's anti-transgender comments. The actor revealed during an interview that he has not spoken to the author

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Entertainment Industry Promotion

SHE IS GAME

Alaya would do grandad Kabir Bedi's 'Khoon Bhari Maang' remake

Actress Alaya F has shown interest in starring in a period drama and even spoke about what it would take for her to feature in a remake of Kabir Bedi and Rekha-starrer 'Khoon Bhari Maang.' Talking to IANS about the 1988 film 'Khoon Bhari Maang', Alaya said: "If people think it's right then sure, and if they don't do it in a gimmicky way. I feel like when these gimmicky things happen, then I am not, like ... 'just because gimmicky association' then they do it."

"If I am genuinely correct for the part and they feel like I am able to add value to the project then yeah, sure," she added. Considered a cult classic, 'Khoon Bhari Maang', which was directed by Rakesh Roshan, revolves around the story of Rekha, who almost gets killed over her wealth by her second husband played by Kabir Bedi. In the action thriller, she sets out to seek revenge after changing from her simple avatar to a glamorous one.

Ever since her debut in 2020 with 'Jawaani Jaaneman', Alaya has featured in several genres of films including psychological thriller, supernatural thriller and an action thriller. However, she is keen to do a period drama. "I really want to do it like a period film. Where I can wear all that royal attire and feel all of that. That's something I want to do," said Alaya, who is the daughter of actress Pooja Bedi.

She added: "I also think that it will be something new for me to sort of put my feet into; and actually in my acting class I have trained a lot of that, I have done a lot of those scenes. So, it will be fun to put that to use because it is totally different from anything I have done before." —IANS

Flowers for the hero

Actor Deepika Padukone's Instagram feed is filled with pictures that encapsulate her abundant love for flowers. Her recent post also has a "flowery" touch.

On Wednesday, Deepika shared a beautiful glimpse of a surprise she received from the team of 'Singham 3'.

In the post, she dropped a close-up picture of a vibrant bouquet comprising colorful pink, red, and white flowers.

In it, was a note that mentioned, "To our hero, Lady Singham".

A few days ago, director Rohit Shetty shared Deepika's look from the 'Singham Again'.

Decked up in a cop uniform, Deepika was seen striking Ajay Devgn's iconic Singham pose.

Rohit wrote, "MY HERO... REEL MEIN BHI AUR REAL MEIN BHI (In reel and in real) LADY SINGHAM!!! @deepikapadukone."

Helmed by Rohit Shetty, Singham Again also stars Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor, Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, and Ranveer Singh. Singham Again is the third installment of the hit franchise and the film is all set to be released in theatres on the occasion of Independence Day 2024. —ANI

Season's first big hook step

Pushpa Pushpa', the first song from the highly anticipated upcoming Allu Arjun-starrer 'Pushpa 2: The Rule', hit the airwaves on Wednesday.

The song, composed by National Award-winning composer Devi Sri Prasad, is a foot-tapping number.

The Hindi version of the song has been crooned by Mika Singh and Nakash Aziz with lyrics furnished by Chandra Bose. It features synthesised sounds, a powerful bassline and heavy percussion section.

The video of the song displays the sheer power of brand that Pushpa has become in a span of 2 years. Allu Arjun makes an appearance with the hook-step that is expected to go viral on the Internet. The video relies heavily on the graphics and still images from the film.

The song ends with the iconic line of Pushparaj's character in the film, "Hargiz jhukega nahi

saala". The song is released in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam & Bengali languages.

For the other versions of the track, Devi Sri Prasad has roped in popular singers like Deepak Blue, Vijay Prakash, Ranjith Govind & Timir Biswas to sing the respective versions of the song.

The occasion of the International Labour Day was strategically chosen to highlight Pushpa's character, who after joining the smuggling gangs as a labourer, rose up the ranks to become the smuggling lord.

Meanwhile, 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' also stars Rashmika Mandanna and Fahadh Faasil, is helmed by Sukumar. —IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Intense love story

Director Arun Manav from Kolar has been busy with promotional activities of his maiden movie Jaasti Preethi – Midida Hrudayagala Mounaraaga. Its soundtrack was launched at Kalavidara Sangha on Tuesday.

"I was inspired by a Facebook page to write the script for this film. The picture on the FB page was heart wrenching. Audiences can see a different love story with a lot of interesting twists. It will keep the audiences on the edge of their seats," said Arun Manav.

Arun Manav has worked as associate director for four Kannada movies. "My experience as an associate director helped me to direct this movie," he said.

Shivaram Kodathi, a real estate businessman, is bankrolling this movie under the banner of Poorna Sri Enterprises, in association with SRK Krishnappa from Sarjapur. Dharma Keerthiraj, who plays the lead, said the script is interesting and it is an intense love story.

After a long gap

Manoj K Jayan, a well-known actor in Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu film industries, makes a comeback to Sandalwood after a gap of 18 years. Jayan acted in Kannada movie Ugranarasimha that was released in 2005. Now, he is playing the villain in Rangasthala, directed by Eshwar Nithin. Its title was launched on Tuesday.

"I am playing the villain in the movie. Kannada language has a divine power. I am Dr Rajkumar's fan and have watched many of his movies. I want to thank the director, producer, and my friends for giving me an opportunity to act in Rangasthala," said Jayan.

Rangasthala is bankrolled by Revanna under the banner Aghora Motion Pictures. A majority of the cast are newcomers. "I hail from an agricultural family. I agreed to bankroll this movie because of my sons who live in the US. My son Vinod selected Manoj K Jayan to play the villain. I do not want to earn profit but only to encourage newcomers," said Dr Revanna.

Eshwar Nithin debuts as a director. "The film will showcase the culture of Dakshina Kannada. The hero is a Yakshagana artiste while the heroine is a wildlife photographer," the director said.